

REMARKS:

The claims in the application are now 28-56.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Another copy of Form PTO-1449 from the Information Disclosure Statement timely filed with the Patent and Trademark Office August 23, 2002, is enclosed. It is respectfully requested the art listed upon enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in the prosecution of the present application.

Claims 1-27 have been replaced with Claims 28-56 to eliminate the formal rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. In this regard, independent Claim 28 is essentially directed to a combination of Claims 1 and 4 and finds additional support in the last paragraph on page 2 and on page 9 of the specification and in Fig. 2, with Claim 29 also finding support at these respective locations. Claims 30-43 essentially correspond to recitation found in Claims 2-3 and 5-19, with Claim 44 finding support on page 3 of the specification, Claim 45 finding support on page 7 of the specification Claim 46 finding support at the bottom of page 8 of the specification, Claims 47 and 48 finding support on page 9 of the specification and Claim 49 finding support in the last full paragraph on page 11 of the specification.

Independent apparatus Claim 50 is essentially directed to the combination of Claims 20 and 23 and finds support on page 8 of the specification, in Figs. 1 and 2, and, with Claim 51, at the same locations as independent method Claim 28 supra. Claims

52-56 essentially correspond to recitation found in Claims 21, 22 and 24-27. Thus, the present set of Claims 28-56 finds clear support throughout the present application and drawings and eliminates all formal rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Therefore, the only outstanding issue is the art rejection of the claims. More particularly, apparatus Claims 20-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,481,356 to Pouet et al while method Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over this reference. However, it is respectfully submitted the invention recited in all claims pending herein defines patentable subject matter over this reference for the following reasons (reference will be made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application).

The present invention explicitly improves analysis and recording of defects in an object 1 such as a tire during pressure deformation. As noted in the background portion of the present application, previously recording and analyzing large defects during deformation had been difficult because intervals between various interference lines had been small or negligible, hampering evaluation.

The claimed invention explicitly improves reliability of evaluation by providing a process for recording deformation of an object 1 such as a tire in which a sequence of images of the object 1 is recorded during deformation, phase images are determined from the recorded images, a differential is formed between two sequential phase images n +1, n + 2, and these differentials are added together, e.g., to the first image. As described, e.g., at the bottom of page 2 of the specification, the incremental deformations are thus

added together, i.e., integrated, yielding the total deformation of the object 1.

The features of the presently claimed invention together with the accompanying advantages attained thereby are neither taught nor suggested by Pouet et al, for the following reasons. As described at column 4, lines 38-54, Pouet et al specifically disclose forming a composite interference pattern for one frame and then subtracting the pattern from a previous frame, pixel by pixel, to form a second-order composite pattern which can be viewed on a video screen. Accordingly, this method bears no relation to the claimed method directed to, among other features, determining phase images from the recorded images, forming a differential between two sequential phase images, and then adding these differentials together. In other words, the incremental deformations are added together, i.e., integrated.

There is no suggestion in Pouet et al that differences are added at all, and certainly no suggestion all the differences are added together. The subtracting step taught in Pouet et al serves a totally different purpose, namely generating one image of the object; contrary to Pouet et al, in the claimed invention, two sequential images are subtracted with the results of successive subtractions being added together. Thus, the present invention clearly solves the problem described, e.g., in the second paragraph on page 2 of the specification and described supra, by improving reliability of evaluation. These advantages are explicitly attained by forming a differential between two sequential images and then adding up these differentials together.

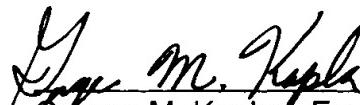
Therefore, contrary to the assertion on page 5 of the Office Action the claimed method and the method of Pouet et al do not generate the same result. The only teaching of the claimed method is found in the disclosure of the present application which does not constitute part of the prior art. Any assertion Pouet et al suggests the claimed invention could, at most, only be made in hindsight of the invention disclosure in the present application, which would constitute improper hindsight reconstruction of the claimed invention. By the same token, Pouet et al fail to teach or suggest the combination of components forming the inventive apparatus recited in independent Claim 50 and the dependent claims therefrom.

The remaining art of record has not been applied against the claims and will not be commented upon further at the present time.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions. A Petition for an automatic two month extension of time for response under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate together with the requisite petition fee and fee for the additional claims introduced herein.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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